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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,470	01/20/2000	Neelakantan Sundaresan	AM9-99-0199	4484

7590

02/20/2002

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San Jose, CA 95120

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/488,470

Applicant(s)

SUNDARESAN, NEELAKANTAN

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Bowman et al. (US 6185558B1).

Re claims 1, 9, and 17, a system for use with a search engine to rank search results, (Col. 7, lines 3-13) comprising: an on-line ranking system for receiving rating data compiled from an on-line source based on interactive criteria, (Col. 5, lines 31-35), and for indexing the rating data, (Col. 6, lines 9-25); an on-line ranking repository for storing the rating data indexed by the on-line ranking system, (Col. 6, lines 23-25); and a result sorter for sorting query results generated by the search engine, based on the

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rating data from the on-line ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches, (Col. 9, lines 58-64).

Re claims 2, 10, and 18, the system according to claim 1, further including a search results transformer that converts the ranked matches to a user browsable form, (Col. 4, lines 2-14).

Re claims 3, 11, and 19, the system according to claim 2, further including an indexing engine that indexes web documents to generate indexed data, (Col. 4, lines 2-14).

Re claims 4, 12, and 20, the system according to claim 3, further including a metadata repository for storing web documents that have been downloaded on-line, (Col. 6, lines 23-25).

Re claims 5, 13, and 21, the system according to claim 3, further including a query transformer which, when prompted by a query, applies a query request to the indexed data and generates the query results, (Col. 4, lines 2-36 and Col. 5, lines 20-39).

Re claims 6, 14, and 22, the system according to claim 1, wherein the on-line source includes an on-line feedback with annotations, (Col. 7, lines 28-Col. 8, lines 20).

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Re claims 7, 15, and 23, the system according to claim 1, wherein the on-line source includes any one or more of a questionnaire, a survey, or a web based rating service, (Col. 7, lines 14-26).

Re claims 8, 16, and 24, the system according to claim 1, wherein the interactive criteria assess the quality of a business in terms of any one or more of: customer satisfaction, professionalism, cost, and ease of use of a product or service, (Col. 7, lines 14-26).

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hartman et al. (US 5758324) shows resume storage and retrieval system.

Crandall et al. (US 6321228B1) shows internet search system for retrieving selected results from a previous search.

Davis et al. (US 6269361B1) shows system and method for influencing a position on a search result list generated by a computer network search engine.

Adar et al. (US 5802515) shows randomized query generation and document relevance ranking for robust information retrieval from a database.

Breese et al. (US 6006218) shows methods and apparatus for retrieving and/or processing retrieved information as a function of a user's estimated knowledge.

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Pirolli et al. (US 6272507B1) shows system for ranking search results from a collection of documents using spreading activation techniques.

**Contact Fax Information**

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Or Faxed to:**

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communication intended for entry)

**Or:**

(703) 308-5399, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA. Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

**Contact Information**

**5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.**

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu, can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

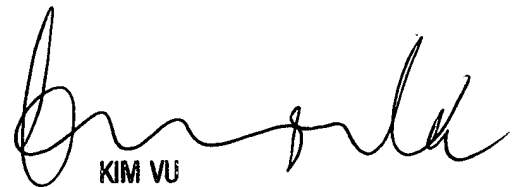
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02/07/2002

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Vu', is written over the printed name.

KIM VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINEE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100